



CITY OF ATLANTA

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SHIRLEY FRANKLIN
MAYOR

February 7, 2005

Dear Community Partner:

The state of our City is strong! We are winning back our optimism and the enduring faith that we can meet any challenge.

In three years, we have:

- balanced our budgets;
- put our fiscal house in order and restored fiscal discipline;
- strengthened our ethics laws;
- repaired our streets;
- a safer, cleaner city;
- filled thousands of potholes;
- improved our customer service;
- increased the number of police officers and firefighters; and
- recruited nationally ranked leadership team to join the cabinet.

At year's end, crime was down 12% and the Atlanta Police Department finally expects to be recommended for national accreditation for having met over 446 standards for training, operations and performance. The Atlanta Fire Department saves lives everyday; our fire deaths are trending downward and last year the Fire Department installed 1,200 smoke detectors in the homes of needy residents. We are rebuilding our infrastructure and expanding our airport. We have turned our City around.

The private sector has contributed millions in cash and in-kind services, and provided incredible support in helping to make this a well-run city. Over 75 companies, the Chamber of Commerce, and many others have served on task forces and commissions to bring, fresh, innovative and sometimes--very daring ideas.

I came to office and pledged financial stability, efficiency and effectiveness, public safety enhancements, and financing to improve our infrastructure.

We are meeting those pledges and here are just a few examples.

- We successfully implemented a \$3 billion funding strategy for long overdue water and sewer improvements.
- We assisted over 12,000 Atlantans in their job search and employed over 700 young adults in summer jobs.
- We streamlined government operations saving \$165 million in three years.
- We expanded the Fifth Runway at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- We issued over \$2 billion in airport and water and sewer bonds.
- We reduced personnel from 37% above the national average to less than 5%.
- The Gateway 24/7 Center and Hope House are under construction and will provide programs for homeless men, women and children.
- Hundreds of at risk families have received emergency funding in the face of eviction or foreclosure.

Over 1,000 homeless men and women have been reunited with their families or received support services.

For the third consecutive year, city government spent less than revenue generated, setting a new standard of fiscal stability. On January 31, 2005, following the City Council's policy direction, I presented a recommendation for the \$18 million additional funds in the 2005 budget to include a .45 mill rollback of property taxes. The other recommendations are:

Public Safety Enhancements

\$3,683,142

This Administration remains committed to making Atlanta a "best in class" safe city. To that end, we recommend 25 new police officers dedicated to drug enforcement policing efforts.

Additional 12 correctional officers are needed to handle the heavy caseload of inmates receiving services at Grady Hospital.

Plans are underway to relocate City agencies currently housed at City Hall East and begin site development and programming for a new police headquarters. These funds will be needed in 2005, but will be recouped from the proceeds of the sale of City Hall East after all departments have vacated the facility.

The Atlanta Fire Department is in need of additional equipment to effectively address tragic accidents and life threatening situations. The Administration recommends the upgrade of six engine companies to paramedic units with advanced life support capabilities, and includes training, new equipment, and salary adjustments.

Completion of Campbellton Road Corridor Study	\$52,800
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Once completed, the Campbellton Road Corridor Study, will include recommendations for streetscape development and traffic-calming alternatives in the area.

Salary Adjustments	\$3,773,389
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This would earmark up to \$5,000,000 for salary adjustments for fire and other employees based on an independent salary and pay survey.

Restricted Reserve	\$549,438
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As part of the ongoing commitment to preserve our financial well being, \$549,438 additional dollars will be placed in a restricted account to meet the 5% appropriations reserve requirement. This will bring our total restricted reserve for 2005 to \$26,516,651.

Self-Insurance Reserve	\$1,000,000
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This recommendation would allow the City, for the first time, to self-insure employee health care benefits and save money by using the money to pay actual costs instead of paying a premium.

Capital Investment	\$1,000,000
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The Administration recommends earmarking \$500,000 to invest in the projects that will allow the City to begin to harness technological advancements to improve effectiveness, efficiency and customer service. To do this, we must continue to invest in technology.

Secondly, a portion of motor equipment inventory is long overdue for replacement. Upgrades in equipment will result in a decrease in downtime in critical areas and reduce cost overruns. The additional \$500,000 would be used to enhance our motor equipment replacement program.

Service Grants	\$100,000
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The Regional Arts Commission nurtures the cultural vitality of our city and the Administration recommends \$100,000 to support this partnership.

Commission on Homelessness	\$30,000
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Significant progress has also been made in the effort to combat homelessness. As part of the continued commitment to provide solutions for the city's homeless population, the Administration recommends \$30,000 in assistance to the Commission on Homelessness.

Economic Development**\$800,000**

The Administration recommends the allocation of \$800,000 to support the programs and services of the Atlanta Development Authority for the promotion of jobs, business retention and development.

Total**\$10,935,969**

The rollback recommended by the Administration represents half of the remaining funding (\$14 million) which brings the ad valorem taxes for operating funds down to 7.8 mills. The mill rate has continued to decline since 2002:

2002 - 9.02
2003 - 8.71
2004 - 8.25
2005 - 7.8

These additional 2005 budget recommendations promote public safety, efficient operations, jobs, and affordable housing and fiscal responsibility.

The symbol of Atlanta is the legendary bird, the Phoenix...rising from the ashes, with your prayers and support, we will continue to rise. Atlanta's **promise** is...Atlanta's **future**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shirley Franklin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shirley Franklin